



AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 20 with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] Referring to **FIG. 3**, in another embodiment of needle **10**, distal end **50** comprises opposing first extension **130** and second extension **140** that are angled towards each other and whose tips **135** and **136** partially define distal opening **60**. **FIG. 4** depicts the projected area **A₁** of distal opening **60**, which is smaller than a cross-sectional area of a section of shaft **20** proximal to distal end **50** according to this aspect of the present invention. Referring to **FIG. 5**, in an alternative embodiment, second extension **140** is longer than first extension **130** in a direction parallel to longitudinal axis **X** of shaft **20**. Preferably tips **135** and **136** of first and second extensions **130** and **140** are beveled, as illustrated in **FIGs. 5** and **6**. Further, as illustrated in **FIGs. 5** and **6**, first and second extensions **130** and **140** may mutually define at least one opening **150**, which is offset from the longitudinal axis of shaft **20**. Referring to **FIG. 6**, which is an end view of needle **10** illustrated in **FIG. 5**, preferably, first and second extensions **130** and **140** mutually define a pair of openings **150a** and **150b** that are each offset from longitudinal axis **X**. Although openings **150a** and **150b** are illustrated as being tear-drop shaped, such openings may have any shape. Referring to **FIG. 7**, in an alternative embodiment, distal end **50** does not include first and second extensions defining openings offset from axis **X**, but rather simply tapers towards distal opening **60**. The degree in which distal end tapers can be any degree such that the projection area of distal opening **60** is smaller than a cross-sectional area of a section of shaft **20** proximal to distal end **50**. For example, angle α ~~a~~ and/or angle β ~~b~~, as indicated in **FIGs. 5** and **7**, may be from about 14° to about 30°.